

REGULAR MEETING- MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL-JANUARY 9, 2006

Mayor Betsy Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:32 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Blair, Clouette, Haddad, Hawkins, Koehn, Paterson, Paulhus, Schaefer
Absent: Redding

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Hawkins moved, and Ms. Blair seconded to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2005 meeting. Mr. Schaefer noted that he was not in attendance at the December 12, 2005 meeting and asked that the minutes reflect that fact.

The motion to approve the minutes as corrected passed unanimously.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Paterson requested a moment of silence after which Ms. Blair noted that 6 young people from Mansfield left for Fort Bragg last Saturday and are scheduled to be deployed to Afghanistan.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Mr. Ben Sachs, 340 Gurleyville Road, urged the Council to address the US Postal designation of Storrs Mansfield, Connecticut. In his research into the USPS, Mr. Sachs found that the only acceptable name for the 06268 zip code is Storrs Mansfield. He requested that the Council investigate the matter saying that the Storrs Mansfield designation is cumbersome and has no history.

Mr. Rudy Favretti, 1066 Middle Turnpike, recalled that the first Post Office in Mansfield was at Four Corners in 1808 and was called the Mansfield Post Office.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. UConn Landfill

Marty Berliner, Town Manager, reported that he has just received the construction plans and documents for the project and that work is to begin this spring and be completed by spring of 2007. In response to a question about well sampling by Ms. Koehn, he noted that it is his understanding that they are switching from an interim-monitoring plan for the wells to a long-term plan, which will continue for twenty plus years.

2. Draft Plan of Conservation and Development

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded, effective January 9, 2006, to notify the Mansfield Planning and Zoning Commission that the August 15, 2005 Draft Plan of Conservation and Development, to incorporate the November 21,

2005 Addendum and the proposed addition to Part II, sections B.1.c. of the draft plan, is compatible with the overall policies and goals of the Town Council, and is therefore endorsed for final action by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Greg Padick, Town Planner, relayed that he and Rudy Favretti, the Chair of the Planning and Zoning Commission reviewed the concerns expressed at the last Town Council meeting and drafted language addressing the mixed use projects, particularly the Storrs Downtown Project, which they will recommend to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Ms. Koehn requested that documents (attached) describing the Storrs Downtown Project as a village be incorporated in the public record.

Motion so passed.

3. Acceptance of Scottron Drive and Sheffield Drive

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded, effective January 9, 2006, to accept Scottron Drive and Sheffield Drive into Mansfield's road system, with the understanding that the PZC chair and staff will execute a one-year maintenance bond with the developer, pursuant to regulatory requirements.

Motion so passed.

4. Management Plans for Wolf Rock Preserve, Crane Hill Field, and Saw Mill Brook Preserve

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded, effective January 9, 2006, to approve the Wolf Rock Preserve Access Management Plan, the Crane Hill Field Management Plan and the Saw Mill Brook Management Plan.

Motion so passed

5. See Above

6. See Above

7. Fenton River

Ms. Blair moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded, effective January 9, 2006, to authorize Mayor Elizabeth Paterson to co-endorse with the Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman, unified comments on the draft Fenton River Aquatic Habitat Study that incorporate the recommendations of the Conservation Commission and the Director of Planning.

Motion so passed

8. Campus/Community Relations

Matt Hart, Assistant Town Manager, updated the Council on issues regarding Campus/Community relations. He explained that the draft housing code has been worked on by staff and will be presented to the Town Council for review.

The draft would apply to all residential properties on a complaint basis with the exception of State owned properties. As drafted there would be a special rental certification overlay zone for the greater Storrs area and owners of property within this zone would be required to obtain a rental certificate of compliance for each property. The proposed criteria for compliance with the code is very detailed and modeled on the International Property Maintenance Code and would be valid for a 2 year period.

9. Comprehensive Annual Financial Report Year Ended June 30, 2005

Mr. Hawkins moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded, effective January 9, 2006, to refer the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report Year Ended June 30, 2005 to the Finance Committee.

Mr. Hawkins requested a breakdown of the charges for service for the ambulance service. The Town Manager will provide the information.

Motion so passed.

10. Natchaug River Greenway Designation

Mr. Clouette requested that the staff highlight how specifically the designation functions to further the stated goals. Mr. Paulhus noted that the designation allows for access to grants.

11. US Postal Service Designation of Storrs-Mansfield, Connecticut

After a discussion regarding the history, the process and the possibilities it was decided that the staff would investigate the criteria behind naming a Post Office and report back to the Council.

12. Mansfield Housing Authority

Matt Hart, Assistant Town Manager, updated the Council on the Housing Authority. They have recently hired one full time replacement and are in the process of interviewing for a new Executive Director. In his discussions with Matt, Commissioner Bill Simonsen expressed an interest in periodic joint meetings between the two bodies. Members also explored how, if needed, the Town might be able to aid the Authority financially either as we currently do as a conduit for grants or other means.

VI. QUARTERLY REPORTS

Mr. Paulhus inquired what was meant by the reference, in the Building Maintenance Director's report, to increased security in our schools. Mayor Paterson suggested that one of the measures under consideration is reorienting the offices in the schools to the front of the buildings. The Town Manager noted that the schools are also in the process of updating the key systems.

VII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Ms. Koehn asked for clarification of the term “expedited review of site plans” which is found in the Planning and Design subsection of the Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board of Director’s meeting minutes. The Town Manager explained that the Planning and Zoning Commission will set the overall standards for the project and then the Town Planner will work with the Partnership Board to insure that the application is in conformity. Ms. Koehn expressed concern regarding the word “expedited” and asked for further clarification.

VIII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Ms. Koehn reported the Special Committee Regarding the Establishment of a Charter Revision Committee will meet on January 17, 2006.

Mr. Paulhus reported that he, Mayor Paterson and Ms. Koehn attended a CCM workshop for newly elected officials. Items under discussion included financial considerations and the budget process.

Mayor Paterson noted that she and Ms. Blair attended the Eagleville Fire Department’s Annual Dinner. She commented how wonderful the generational support of the volunteers is in the department. Ms. Blair noted that the attendance at the event was very strong.

Mayor Paterson and Mr. Schaefer are serving on the UConn 125 Anniversary Committee. The kickoff will take place on January 25, 2006 with a whole series of events planned for the next two years. Mayor Paterson stated that they are looking for ways to get the town involved such as a link between our website and the anniversary website. Mr. Schaefer noted that the committee is comprised of large number of people from organizations who have been involved with the University over the last 125 years, including unions, the town and members of the Storrs family.

IX. TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

Marty Berliner, Town Manager, commented briefly on the supplement to his report handed out that evening. He updated the Council on the current status of the voting machines noting that in 2006 we will again be using the lever machines.

A report from the consultant regarding the assisted living project is expected prior to the next meeting.

The School Building Committee will have its first meeting this week.

The Town Manager, *the Director of Finance*, and the Mayor attended a meeting last week of the Eastern Connecticut Regional Finance Group. The focus of the meeting was concern over binding arbitration, minimum wage and other unfunded mandates.

The Director of Finance and the Town Manager attended the CBIA Economic Summit where the national, regional and state economy was discussed.

The Town Manager attended the WINCOG meeting last Friday at which SMART

POWER made a presentation. A couple of the member towns expressed an interest in participating. Mansfield's participation appears to be at 85 members. The town is in the process of obtaining quotes for the 20/10 program.

The Annual Financial Town Council Workshop will be held on a Saturday in February, the date to be announced.

X. FUTURE AGENDAS

- A tour of town owned properties will be scheduled prior to the adoption of a budget.

Senator Don Williams and Representative Denise Merrill have been invited to a future meeting.

XI. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

- - 13. Mansfield Planning and Zoning Commission re: Revision to Zoning Regulations to Authorize Accessory Sheds
 - 14. Mansfield Resident Trooper's Office, Holiday Celebration
 - 15. G. Padick re: Proposed Age-restricted Housing Zoning Regulations
 - 16. C. van Zelm re: Relocation and Casting Process for Storrs Center
 - 17. Access Agency re: Regional Energy Summit
 - 18. Technology Transfer, "Parking: How Much is Enough?"
 - 19. The Hartford Courant, "Unified Effort Spawns Storrs Center Project"
 - 20. The New London Day, "Dispelling the Myths About the Fort Trumbull Project"
 - 21. William Casper Graustein Memorial Fund re: Mansfield Discovery Action Plan
 - 22. Connecticut Department of Transportation re: Mansfield's Highway Safety Project Application - The town received the \$4500 that was requested and will be able to post a speed display sign in front of the Middle School.
 - 23. University of Connecticut Report, "Monitoring and Analysis of the Willimantic Reservoir and the Mansfield Hollow Lake Watershed"

Mayor Paterson announced that all Committee assignments of the Council would remain the same.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:04 p.m. Ms. Blair moved and Mr. Haddad seconded to adjourn the meeting So passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk